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**CLAIMS**

1. (amended) A process for producing iron oxide-containing pellets comprising agglomerating fine ore particles in the presence of a binder system to form green pellets, and heating said green pellets in stages to a final temperature in the range of about 1,275-1,350°C, characterized in that said binder system is substantially free of hydrophobic liquid and comprises
  - (i) an organic binder, and
  - (ii) a binder additive selected from boron-containing compounds, calcium fluoride, and combinations thereof.
2. The process according to claim 1 wherein the boron-containing compound is selected from boron oxide, calcium borate, sodium borate, boric acid, and boron nitride.
3. The process of claim 1 or 2 wherein the boron-containing compound is sodium borate.
4. The process according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the binder system comprises a carboxymethyl cellulose as organic binder.
5. A process for producing iron oxide-containing pellets comprising the step of agglomerating fine iron ore particles in the presence of a binder system which comprises a cellulose ether and a binder additive selected from boron-containing compounds, calcium fluoride, and combinations thereof.
6. The process according to claim 5 wherein the cellulose ether is carboxymethyl cellulose or a salt thereof.